

VZCZCXYZ0031  
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHC #0077 1881739  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
R 071716Z JUL 09  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1037  
INFO RUEHBE/AMEMBASSY BELMOPAN 3030  
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 3345  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 3421  
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 4602  
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 9453  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JUL MANAGUA 9294  
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 2811  
RUEHBH/AMEMBASSY NASSAU 4822  
RUEHPO/AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO 5312  
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 8533  
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 3555  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 1010  
RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 7646  
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 5224  
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 6940

S E C R E T STATE 070077

NOFORN  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/07/2034  
TAGS: [PINR](#) [EPET](#) [ETRD](#) [PREL](#) [VE](#)  
SUBJECT: (C/NF) VENEZUELAN FOREIGN POLICY WITHIN LATIN  
AMERICA (C-AL9-01405)

Classified By: SUZANNE MCCORMICK, DIR., INR/OPS. REASON: 1.4(C).

11. (C/NF) WASHINGTON ANALYSTS APPRECIATE THE WIDE BODY OF REPORTING OVER MANY YEARS ON THE PUBLIC AND COVERT TOOLS VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CHAVEZ USES TO GAIN INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA. US POLICYMAKERS AND ANALYSTS REMAIN INTERESTED IN THIS TOPIC AND, AS TIME AND RESOURCES PERMIT, WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REPORTING ON CHAVEZ'S ONGOING FOREIGN POLICY TOOLS WITHIN LATIN AMERICA GIVEN THE CURRENT OIL PRICES AND LESSONS VENEZUELA HAS LEARNED FROM ITS FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESSES AND SETBACKS OVER THE YEARS.

1A. (C) WHAT ARE CHAVEZ'S TOP REGIONAL SPENDING PRIORITIES FOR 2009? IN POST'S ESTIMATION, WILL HE MAKE CUTBACKS IN REGIONAL SPENDING GIVEN LOWER OIL PRICES, OR WILL HE CONTINUE SPENDING DESPITE HAVING FEWER RESOURCES?

1B. (C) WHICH COUNTRIES IS CHAVEZ MOST LIKELY TO LOBBY THE MOST AGGRESSIVELY TO JOIN PETROCARIBE OR ALBA, AND WHAT, IF ANY, STRATEGIES DOES HE PLAN TO USE OR INCENTIVES DOES HE PLAN TO OFFER?

1C. (C) WHAT IS THE STATUS OF ONGOING VENEZUELAN-SPONSORED SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA? HOW DOES THE PUBLIC IN VENEZUELA VIEW THE PROGRAMS? TO WHAT EXTENT ARE THEY SUCCESSFUL IN BOLSTERING CHAVEZ'S IMAGE IN THE REGION?

1D. (C) WHAT ARE CHAVEZ'S PLANS WITH REGARD TO UPCOMING REGIONAL ELECTIONS? WE WOULD SPECIFICALLY APPRECIATE REPORTING ON VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' VIEWS TOWARD THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN HONDURAS, BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, URUGUAY, CHILE, AND BRAZIL (IN 2010). WHAT IS CHAVEZ DOING, IF ANYTHING, TO INFLUENCE REGIONAL EVENTS FROM BEHIND THE SCENES?

1E. (C) WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REPORTING ON PUBLIC REACTION TO CHAVEZ'S REGIONAL FOREIGN POLICY. HOW IS THE POPULATION REACTING IN THOSE COUNTRIES THAT BENEFIT FROM HIS FOREIGN INITIATIVES? HOW IS THE VENEZUELAN POPULATION REACTING?  
CLINTON